

Correspondence and Postal Reports.

REPAIRING CHURCH—SIX PREACHERS—FUSION WITH THE G. B. BRETHREN, ETC.

Jan. 20, 1894.

If there has been no report from the church at this place for some time, the reason is due more to the fact that there has been but little to report than because of a lack of some one with reportorial ability; for, although, we are now without a regularly employed pastor, the church is so fortunate—or unfortunate, which?—as to have half a dozen preachers who are at present making this their church home, and are variously engaged in preaching, teaching, going to school, farming, etc.

Our new church is rapidly nearing completion and we expect to dedicate early in February.

While we cannot have services of our own, many of our flock are pasturing with the German Baptist flock. As they do not preach much Annual Meeting doctrine, the food obtained is not hard to digest. But as we thus worship together our minds naturally revert back to the time when we were yet one church and I believe I voice the sentiment of the younger members of both churches when I say that, associating together as many of us do, having the same belief in matters pertaining to doctrine, and not feeling the bitterness of division entailed upon our fathers, we cannot but wish that we were again one church.

Surely a great wrong has been committed. Two churches where there should be but one: division where there should be union. A feeling of hatred where there should be love and co-operation. No wonder that some who were most active in using their expelling power have not walked the floor with a troubled conscience. Church divisions do not permanently remove the cause of division and today there would be just as much cause for another division as there was for the first. But can we not believe that the church has learned wisdom and has grown more tolerant, and that a broader and deeper Christianity prevails which tends to that union for which Christ so earnestly prayed.

The various young people's societies of this place have formed a union and hold union young people's meetings about every month or six weeks. A special program is arranged for these meetings and by thus getting together so many active workers a good meeting is had and a general good feeling awakened.

Perhaps there are some who would object to these meetings because they do not foster denominationalism. But neither do they foster the evils of exclusiveness and the things which lead to divisions and the evils mentioned above.

The true Christian will not compromise his convictions with wrong but on the other hand will adopt any

new truth and anything good that he may learn.

We believe we have the truth on our side and so have nothing to fear on that score—neither have we so far as ability is concerned at this place.

Our winter weather so far has not been conducive to colonization in California. Neither too cold nor too warm and no flies. If Bro. Holsinger can boast of anything better I would like to hear from him. Would be pleased to hear from him anyhow.

Would also like to hear from those brethren who were keeping a record of the new members received in 1893. Bro. S. B. Beekly, started a record, I know, for I remember the trouble he had to keep the record straight. Would like to know what the record is.

With the many friends of the editor and his family I extend my sympathy to them in their sore affliction and hope and pray that Master Homer may be spared to a life of great usefulness, of which he already in his youth gave so much promise.

HORACE YODER.

JOHNSTOWN TO BERLIN.

To our many inquiring friends—We are about settled in our present field of labor and hope soon to be again in the full harness of the work. We find many changes that have taken place here since we left three years ago. Some of the old familiar faces are gone, and a few new ones have taken their place.

Three weeks ago today we arrived here from Johnstown; and, in a large measure, we feel as though we were here on a visit and should return by next train to our work. Many and very pleasant to us are the recollections of our three years pastorate among the good people of the "Flood City." No better and kinder people can be found. This is especially true of the membership of the Johnstown Congregation. Here is an opening for a minister of the Brethren church to secure a pastorate of the most desirable kind in the Brotherhood. The co-operation of the home ministry is of the very best; they are Aaron's and Hur's and among the numerous kind favors, and hearty support that came to me in my labors these many were championed by the local Elders. As we write these lines there is a peculiar sensation about my heart and an unusual moisture in the eye. God bless you all. [Berlin is one of the historical spots] in the church, here is where the famous Holsinger Committee met. It is one of the oldest towns in western Pa.; population, 1000; altitude, nearly 2,500 feet; located in the centre of Brothersvally Township, which derived its name from the brethren who were among the most numerous of the early settlers of this section.

My great grandfather, John Knepper, was born in the eastern part of the state in 1765. Early in life he settled here. His son, John, my grandfather, was born here in 1795 and was the first Abolitionist in all the township and the only voter who cast his ballot for

the free-soil candidate. His son, Solomon, my father, was born in 1820 and did the first English preaching done in the Brethren church in this section by the home ministry. More than 50 years ago, this son, John H., the writer, was also born and raised and called to the ministry in this place.

This Brother, Editor, gives our pedigree in full and entitles us to the virtues that come from being a full fledged. "Pennsylvania Dutch Dunkard." May we so live that our life may never be a strain on that fair Escutcheon, is my prayer.

In the Berlin Charge of the Brethren church I spent my first seven years of active pastoral work. Then three years at Johnstown and now back again to Berlin, where, by the help of God and the kind co-operation of his people here, we are resolved to labor for Christ and his kingdom according to our ability.

I am in the possession of the names of 57 persons, natives of this town and township who heard and answered the call to preach the Gospel of Christ and 31 of them were of the "Dunkard" persuasion.

JOHN H. KNEPPER.

Berlin, Pa., Jan. 25, '94.

INDIANA MISSIONARY APPEAL.

January 27, 1894.

To the Brethren Churches and Pastors of the State of Indiana:

Dear Brethren and Sisters:—At our last state conference at Roann, Ind., the churches and delegates, with the various pastors of our respective churches, elected the present *Mission Board* and pledged themselves to all make an immediate and united effort to aid the Board in accomplishing more than we have been doing the past years. It was decided and agreed that the delegates and pastors of the respective churches, represented there and then, should and would take immediate and permanent steps, as the agents of the congregations, to get the greatest possible amount pledged from each church and send the report of the same at the earliest possible time, to the secretary of the Board; so that the Board could know what amount of means she had at her command and could know certainly what could be undertaken and promised in answer to calls that came from various parts of the state. Now brethren and sisters, we, as a Board can only serve you as you make it possible for us to do so. We feel our responsibility; but we also feel that we cannot answer for the responsibility of the churches, in their pledges and efforts in this direction.

Brethren and sisters, let us not forget the true and earnest things said, the sacred pledges made to each other, and the resolutions passed at that last conference, I am only too well aware of the argument of "hard times," etc. There is reason for and truth in the claim. But brethren and sisters, hard times even will not relieve us of our duty and responsibility to God and the church and of our

promises and pledges to his cause, according to our ability. Then too, it is God's way to fill our own treasures from the overflow of the treasury of the house of the Lord. The Lord says: "Honor the Lord with thy substance so shall thy barns be filled with plenty."

The liberal soul shall be made fat, and he that watereth shall be watered also himself. "Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, shall men give into your bosom."

"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it." "There is that scattereth and yet increaseth; there is that withholdeth more than is meat, but it tendeth to poverty." "Honor the Lord with thy substance and with the first fruits of all thine increase, so shall thy barns be filled with plenty and thy presses shall burst out with new wine." Will we not have faith in God and his precious word? Even if from no higher motive than earthly reward, it would pay to trust and obey the Lord. But we are assured in God's Holy word, that godliness is profitable both for this life and the life to come."

Let us "trust not in uncertain riches, but in the living God." Remember that "he that soweth sparingly shall reap sparingly; he which soweth bountifully shall reap bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, nor of necessity, for God loveth a cheerful giver." And, that, "if there be first a willing mind it is accepted according to that a man hath and not according to that he hath not."

Brethren and sisters, let us remember that "they that turn many unto righteousness shall shine as the stars in heaven." And let us heed the words of our blessed Lord, "lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven." At our recent meeting of the Board we laid out a plan of a concentrated effort of work, in which, if you will all quickly and liberally respond to our need, we feel that great and permanent good will be done to the salvation of souls and the honor of our Brotherhood and the glory of God. Some of the churches have responded nobly, while others have not heeded our call and from whom we have not even heard since their pledges were made at the conference. The Board has been handicapped and greatly hindered and made powerless thus far by this indifference and apathy, toward our mission work.

Will not every church and member throughout the state of Indiana awaken to a realizing sense of our great responsibilities in this direction, and go to work immediately and take subscriptions as rapidly as possible for the current conference year,